

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 AF-08 IO-13 INT-05 TRSE-00 /090 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:DPIERCE:BABS

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER

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R 090254Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SENATOR THOMPSON GOES TO WASHINGTON

1. SUMMARY: AT A PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 6 IN WASHINGTON, DC, FONMIN DUDLEY THOMPSON ANNOUNCED THE GOJ/ALCOA AGREEMENT AND FIELDDED QUESTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA, JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION, AND "DESTABILIZATION." WHILE HE DENIED THAT GOJ OFFICIALS HAD EVER ACCUSED THE USG OF TRYING TO DESTABILIZE JAMAICA, IN HIS LATER REMARKS AT THE INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES (IPS) HE HINTED STRONGLY THAT THE CIA WAS AMONG THE DESTABILIZING FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST THE GOJ. IN HIS FORMAL ADDRESS TO IPS, THOMPSON CASTIGATED PRESENT WESTERN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND AFFIRMED JAMAICA'S DESIRE FOR A "DIALOGUE AMONG EQUALS." END SUMMARY.

2. THOMPSON OPENED THE PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT HIS REMARKS WOULD BE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF JAMAICA'S LONG, TRADITIONAL, AND CLOSE FRIENDSHIP

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WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE ASSERTED THAT JAMAICA HOLDS

TO A THIRD WORLD POSTURE, WHICH HE DEFINED AS INDEPENDENCE
IN DETERMINING ITS OWN POSITIONS WITHOUT A "BLOCK"
IDENTIFICATION.

3. DESTABILIZATION: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, THOMPSON
SAID, "NO RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT BELIEVES OR
HAS EVER SAID ANYWHERE OR AT ANYTIME THAT THE USG IS
ATTEMPTING TO DESTABILIZE JAMAICA." WHEN ASKED WHO WAS
TRYING TO DESTABILIZE THE GOJ, HE REPLIED, "ANTI-CASTRO
CUBANS, EXPATiate JAMAICANS ANGRY AT THEIR LOSS OF
PRIVILEGED POSITION AND ALL THOSE WHO WOULD HOPE TO
BRING THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT INTO DISREPUTE." HE
REPEATED THIS ANSWER IN HIS LATER REMARKS TO IPS AND
ADDED, "AMONG THEM , IT IS POSSIBLE, THE CIA."

4. HE SAID THE GOJ HAD NOTED SEVERAL STRANGE EVENTS,
INCLUDING SIMULTANEOUS BOMBINGS, RIOTS, STRIKES, LIES
SPREAD BY TRAVEL AGENTS, AND A VICIOUS AND APPARENTLY
ORCHESTRATED PRESS CAMPAIGN, ALL OF WHICH BORE A DISTURB-
ING RESEMBLANCE TO THE ACTIONS THAT PRECEDED THE OVERTHROW
OF ALLENDE. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE ESPECIALLY DISTURBED
BY REPUTABLE REPORTERS WHO BEGAN THEIR STORIES WITH
"FROM INTELLIGENCE DATA" OR "FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES" AND
WHOSE STORIES WERE MET WITH "ELOQUENT SILENCE" FROM THE
STATE DEPARTMENT. WHEN ASKED IF THE CIA WAS OPERATING
IN JAMAICA AS AGEE HAD ALLEGED, HE SAID, "I AM NOT IN A
POSITION TO STATE THAT WHAT AGEE SAID IS TRUE," AND
THEN ALLUDED TO THE CHURCH COMMITTEE REPORT AS INDIS-
PUTABLE EVIDENCE OF DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS BY THE CIA
IN SUCH PLACES AS CHILE.

5. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE GOJ HAD RAISED THEIR CONCERN
OVER "DESTABILIZATION," THOMPSON SAID THAT IT HAD COME
UP FREQUENTLY, PARTICULARLY OVER "OFFICIAL SOURCES"
QUOTED BY NEWSMEN. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE STATE
DEPARTMENT HAD PROMOSed TO TRACK DOWN THE "SOURCES,"
NOTHING HAD COME OF IT YET. HE THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT
THE LUERS STATEMENT HAD BEEN "FACTUAL AND WELL RECEIVED."

6. SOUTH AFRICA: THOMPSON SAID JAMAICA SUPPORTS THOSE
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"FRONTIER" (I.E. FRONT LINE) AFRICAN NATIONS WHOSE
EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS SHOULD BE BRINGING ABOUT MAJORITY
RULE NOW, NOT TWO YEARS HENCE. HE SAID THIS WAS A
MORAL ISSUE IN WHICH IAN SMITH HAS SHOWN HE CANNOT BE
TRUSTED.

7. BAUXITE: THOMPSON READ A TWO-PAGE GOJ NEWS RELEASE
ON THE ALCOA/GOJ AGREEMENT WHICH HE SAID USHERS IN A

NEW ERA OF COOPERATION, QUOTING ALCOA CHAIRMAN KROME GEORGE IN SAYING THAT THIS WAS A WINNING SITUATION FOR BOTH PARTIES. HE SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD HELP QUIET "OTHER SECTORS OF GREAT LEVERAGE THAT HAVE BEEN RATTLING AROUND," EVIDENTLY AN ALLUSION TO "DESTABILIZATION." HE THEN SAID, "I DO NOT REFER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT," AND LATER MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE "HAD NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER" THAT THE BAUXITE COMPANIES WERE "DESTABILIZING."

8. THE EMERGENCY: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, THOMPSON SAID THE EMERGENCY HAD BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST CRIMINALS AND PAID GUNMEN AND THAT ABOUT 200 WERE NOW UNDER DETENTION. HE ASSERTED THAT THE EMERGENCY WAS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY OR INTERFERE WITH ELECTIONS AND STATED, "THE OPPOSITION PARTY WAS CALLED IN TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF THE EMERGENCY SO THAT POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS WOULD NOT BE DELAYED." HE SAID MOST OF THE VIOLENCE HAD BEEN CAUSED BY DESTABILIZATION FROM WITHOUT AND WITHIN, ALTHOUGH VIOLENCE IS ALSO CAUSED BY POVERTY, WHICH THE GOJ IS WORKING TO AMELIORATE.

9. IN HIS IPS ADDRESS, THOMPSON CASTIGATED THE PRESENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AS "LITTLE MORE THAN AN UMBRELLA FOR U.S. INFLUENCE AND PARAMOUNTCY OVER LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, WEARING THE TRANSPARENT DISGUISE OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE, FINANCIAL AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION." THE SYSTEM, HE SAID, PRECLUDES GENUINE DIALOGUE AMONG SOVEREIGN EQUALS BY (INTER ALIA) REFUSING TO ACCEPT IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM AND BY FACILITATING ECONOMIC DOMINATION BY AMORAL MULTINATIONALS. JAMAICA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRING ABOUT A NEW POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORDER -- A DIALOGUE OF EQUALS. FULL TEXT OF IPS ADDRESS BEING POUCHED.

10. PUERTO RICO: THOMPSON SAID THAT JAMAICA ADHERES STRICTLY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE. FOR THIS REASON, JAMAICA HAS NEVER SUPPORTED PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR THAT A MAJORITY OF PUERTO RICANS DO NOT WANT IT.

11. ECONOMIC SITUATION: THOMPSON WOULD NOT RULE OUT A DEVALUATION OF THE JAMAICAN DOLLAR, BUT INSISTED THAT JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION "WAS IMPROVING." HE SAID THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ALL OF THE EC DOLS 80 MILLION "EMERGENCY" FUNDS FROM GUYANA, TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS.

HE PREDICTED THAT GOJ REVENUE FROM BAUXITE WOULD INCREASE
SLIGHTLY IN 1977 DESPITE THE SLIGHTLY LOWER RATE OF THE
BAUXITE LEVY IN THE ALCOA AGREEMENT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE252108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPERCE:BABS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760382-0611
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761063/aaaacdgv.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATOR THOMPSON GOES TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US
To: KINGSTON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006